



ADVOCATE ILLINOIS MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER
JOHN H. STROGER JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

DATE: October 8, 2024
TO: Region 11 EMS Providers
Region 11 EMS Participating Hospitals
FROM: **REGION 11 EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONSORTIUM**
SUBJECT: **AVOIDING AN INTRAVENOUS (IV) FLUID SHORTAGE**

Hurricane Helene took a major Baxter facility, which produces an estimated 60% of IV fluids, offline until further notice. While other factories and manufacturers are acting to ramp up and fill the void, we must begin to conserve IV fluids now to avoid a shortage.

In the Chicago area, hospitals have now begun to conserve IV fluids by stressing oral volume replacement when possible, as well as many other measures. They are closely monitoring their current IV fluid supplies in an effort to avoid a critical shortage. In addition, Emergency Departments may be changing restocking procedures of IV fluids for tighter inventory control. Please be flexible as all of us navigate this challenge together.

Effective immediately, EMS providers should only administer IV fluids for Region 11 approved indications.

DO NOT use IV fluids only to “keep a vein open” after IV placement enroute to the hospital.

We respect your clinical judgement and realize there are many unique situations.

Please review the following [EMS Protocols](#) regarding clinically appropriate IV fluid use:

1. **Shock Protocol (and Pediatric) - ALS**
2. **General Trauma Management Protocol - ALS**
3. **Nausea and Vomiting Protocol (and Pediatric) - ALS**
4. **Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reaction Protocol (and Pediatric) - ALS**
5. **Burns Protocol - ALS**

As always, notify your Resource Hospital of any issues with replacing the required Drugs, Equipment, and Supplies as per the [Participating Hospital Responsibilities Policy](#).

Your partnership with us while this situation clarifies itself is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for what you do each and every day.

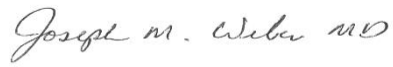
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